ZOOLOGY.—Spongilla discoides *Penney: A correction.* JAMES T. PENNEY, University of South Carolina. (Communicated by Fenner A. Chace, Jr.)

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The identification of *Spongilla discoides* Penney (1933a) as a new species was based upon the presence of gemmules in the shape of biconvex discs, the absence of gemmule spicules, the presence of small equibirotulates (microscleres) in the dermal membrane, and the presence of two types of flesh spicules (also microscleres) in the tissue. Specimens containing these gemmules were first collected in 1930, and many others were obtained for four or five years afterward. They were extensively used in reduction experiments (Penney, 1933b). The same sponge, without gemmules, was used for routine class experiments and in dermal membrane studies for many years. Most of this work was conducted during the spring and summer and no attempt at year round collecting was made. No gemmules were observed during this period. The pond from which this sponge was collected has been dry for the last two years.

Recent collections from various areas within South Carolina have yielded specimens in close association with bryozoans. The presence of the latter led to the idea that the gemmules of *Spongilla discoides* may have been statoblasts of a bryozoan. The United States National Museum was requested to send my slide of the "gemmules" of *Spongilla discoides* to a competent authority on the bryozoa. Dr. Mary D. Rogick identified these "gemmules" as statoblasts of a phylactolaematous bryozoan.

Many hundreds of young sponges of this species have been reared on slides in the laboratory from adult specimens by a method described earlier (Penney, 1932). All distinctive characters listed above with the exception of gemmules and absence of gemmule spicules were constantly observed. It was noted in the original description (Penney, 1933, p. 4) that the two types of flesh spicules resembled closely the gemmule spicules of *Heteromeyenia ryderi* and that a new genus was possibly indicated.

Jewell (1952) remarked upon the similarity of the birotulate dermal spicules to those of *Corvospongilla* and *Corvomeyenia* and also the similarity of the two types of flesh spicules to the birotulate gemmule spicules of *Heteromeyenia ryderi*. Jewell also stated that on several occasions typical gemmule birotulates had been found "embedded in the flesh, when no gemmules were present, in both *Corvomeyenia everetti*, and *Heteromeyenia ryderi*. It is possible that the scleroblasts had formed these spicules in anticipation of the development of gemmules around which they would later have been arranged, or that some condition inhibited the development of gemmules without equally affecting the formation of the spicules which should surround them" (p. 454). This writer has also observed free gemmule spicules in *Heteromeyenia ryderi*. Owing to the lack of gemmule spicules and the close similarity of other spicules to those of the subfamily Meyeninae, Jewell very soundly established the genus *Parameyenia*, with *Spongilla discoides* Penney, 1933, as genotype.

Weltner (1913) created the genus *Corvomeyenia* for the species of *Heteromeyenia* having birotulate dermal spicules.

With the knowledge that *Spongilla discoides* is now without known gemmules, that it does have birotulate dermal spicules, and on the basis of Jewell's and my own observation of free gemmule spicules, I propose that *Spongilla discoides* become *Corvomeyenia discoides* (Penney).

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